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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted (along with any documents identified below) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Date: June 25, 2003

Signature: 

Attorney

TO: EXAMINER SHIN LIN CHEN
GROUP ART UNIT: 1632

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FROM: Perry E. Van Over
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Telephone No.: (202) 861-3917

DATE: June 25, 2003

RE: U.S. APPLICATION SERIAL NO.: 09/811,509
FILED: MARCH 20, 2001
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 9958-002-27 CONT

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS PAGE: 5

COMMENTS

In the event any fees are due, including any fees required under 37 CFR 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge the required fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1442. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time.

The documents included with this filing by facsimile transmission are:

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT INCLUDING 1 ATTACHMENT

DOCKET NO. 9958-002-27 CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: JOHN N. SHANNON, ET AL. ART UNIT: 1632

SERIAL NO.: 09/811,509

EXAMINER: CHEN, SHIN LIN

FILING DATE: MARCH 20, 2001

FOR: METHODS AND ORGANISMS FOR CONCENTRATING AND
RECOVERING METAL SAND MINERALS FROM AQUEOUS MEDIA

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

PO BOX 1450

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

This Second Supplemental Amendment is submitted responsive to the Examiner's
Communication dated June 19, 2003 and in accord with the teleconference between
Examiner Chen and undersigned counsel on June 24, 2003.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

23. (Twice Amended) A method of recovering metals and minerals from sea water,
comprising:

23. (Twice Amended) A method of recovering metals and minerals from sea water,
comprising:
contacting a sponge that harbors bacteria capable of concentrating said metal or
mineral with sea water, said sponge having a symbiotic relationship with said bacteria, so as